



# United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
Phoenix Area Office  
6150 West Thunderbird Road  
Glendale, AZ 85306-4001  
APR 21 2020

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
PXAO-1500  
2.1.4.13

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

## Memorandum

To: All Interested Persons, Organizations, and Agencies

From: Leslie A. Meyers  
Area Manager

**LESLIE  
MEYERS**

Digitally signed by  
LESLIE MEYERS  
Date: 2020.04.21  
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Subject: Notice of Public Scoping Period – Environmental Assessment of the Proposed Disclaiming of Interest in Twenty-Six (26) Existing Groundwater Pumping Plants and Proposed Approval of a 2020 Supplemental Agreement Among Roosevelt Irrigation District, Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District, Salt River Valley Water Users' Association, and the United States of America through the Secretary of Interior Authorizing the Continued Operation of Existing Groundwater Wells Within the Salt River Reservoir District, Maricopa County, Arizona (Action by 15 Days from the Date of this Memorandum)

The Bureau of Reclamation is conducting public scoping pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; Public Law 91-90) and 40 CFR § 1507.1. This document is an attempt to encourage early and open public participation with the NEPA review of activities associated with two proposed actions: (1) The United States of America through the Secretary of the Interior (Reclamation) proposes to disclaim all interests in 26 existing pumping plants (Eastside Wells) described in a deed, recorded January 1, 1928, between the Salt River Valley Water Users' Association (Association) and the Roosevelt Irrigation District (RID) that are operated by the RID; and, (2) the proposed approval of a supplemental agreement (2020 Supplement) among the RID, the Association, the Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District (SRP District) (the Association and the SRP District, collectively, "SRP"), and Reclamation. The 2020 Supplement pertains to RID's use of Reclamation project water to provide water to users within the Roosevelt Irrigation District through the Eastside Wells located within the boundaries of the Salt River Reservoir District (Figure 2).

### Project Location

The RID delivers Reclamation project water to approximately 38,000 acres of land using 50 miles of main canals and 185 miles of lateral canals southwest of Phoenix, Arizona (Figure 1).

### Background

Originally, the Carrick and Mangham Agua Fria Land and Irrigation Company (CMAFLIC) was authorized by the Association to operate the Eastside Wells via an August 25, 1921 agreement. In 1927, the RID succeeded the CMAFLIC and the RID, as successor in interest to CMAFLIC, was authorized to continue operation of the Eastside Wells via a 1927 amendment to the 1921 agreement. The

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INTERIOR REGION 8 • LOWER COLORADO BASIN

ARIZONA, CALIFORNIA\*, NEVADA\*

\* PARTIAL

1921 agreement and 1927 amendment were further supplemented by a 1950 supplement. The three documents were each approved by the Secretary of Interior or a designee.

### **Project Description**

Under the proposed actions, Reclamation would: (1) Disclaim any interest in the Eastside Wells; and, (2) Reclamation, RID and SRP would enter into a new 2020 Supplement under the authority of federal Reclamation law including Section 1 of the Warren Act of 1911. Currently, the project water withdrawn by RID from the Eastside Wells is withdrawn pursuant to the existing 1921 agreement and its supplements and amendments. The 2020 Supplement includes the following provisions with respect to RID's use of the Eastside Wells:

1. RID shall continue to provide Reclamation project water from the Eastside Wells to not more than 24,900 acres of agricultural land.
2. Beginning in 2021, the amount of water RID may withdraw from the Eastside Wells is equal to 5.6 acre-feet (AF) multiplied by the total acres of irrigable agricultural land. The maximum amount of water RID may withdraw from the Eastside Wells is 139,440 AF (Eastside Well Pumping Limit).
3. The Eastside Well Pumping Limit shall be reduced by 5.6 AF for each acre of irrigated agricultural lands that is permanently urbanized.
4. RID shall discontinue pumping water from the Eastside Wells when the total acres of irrigated agricultural land decrease to 2,000 acres or less.
5. Once RID discontinues pumping water from the Eastside Wells, SRP shall purchase the Eastside Wells from RID.

Reclamation requests that anyone with information or comments relevant to the actions outlined in this document provide input in the scoping process. To be most helpful, comments should be as specific as possible and related to the activities of the proposed project. Comments should be received within 15 days of the date of this letter and addressed to the attention of Mr. Dominic Graziani, or via email at [dgraziani@usbr.gov](mailto:dgraziani@usbr.gov). Please be advised that any personal identifying information (PII) included in a submitted response, may be made publicly available at any time. While you may request that Reclamation withhold your PII from public review, Reclamation cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

If you have questions, please contact Mr. Graziani at (623) 773-6216.

Thank you for help and cooperation with this project.

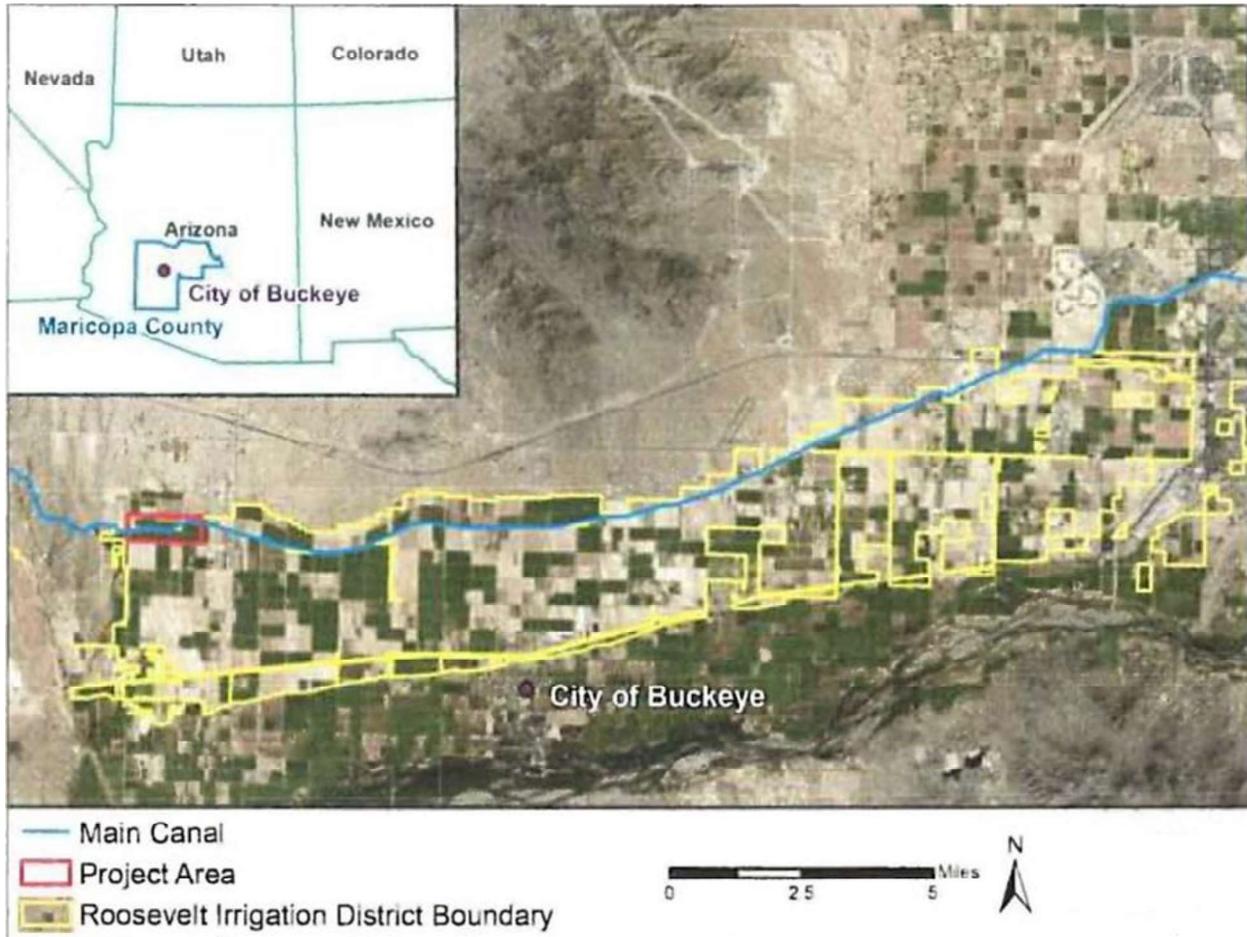


Figure 1. RID Boundaries.

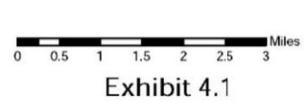
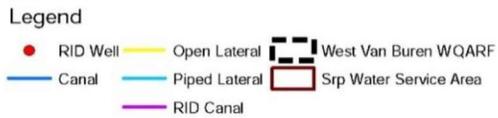
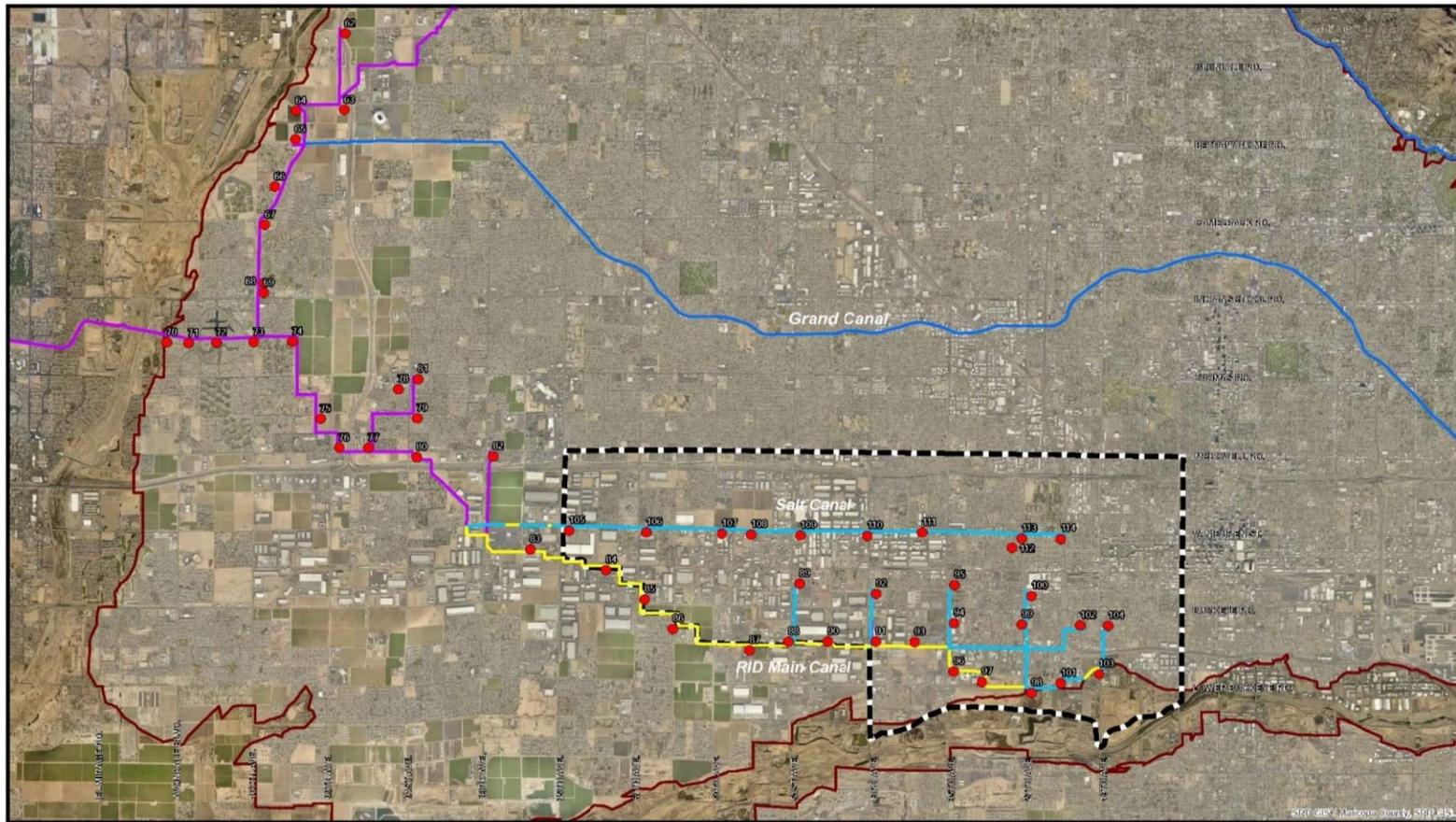


Figure 2. Eastside Well Locations.